

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A first aspect of this invention resides in a replacement selection method for organizing data items from two or more input streams, the method providing improved handling of duplicate data items. In this method, a data item being processed from one of the input streams is identified as being a duplicate of a previously processed data item. An indication that the data item being processed is a duplicate data item is retained, and input streams containing the duplicate data items are alternated the data items are organized responsive at least in part to that indication.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A second aspect of this invention resides in a computer-readable data structure representing a selection tree for use in a computer-implemented replacement selection method for organizing data items from two or more input streams. This data structure comprises for each node of the selection tree: an identifier of one of the input streams, a reference to a data item being processed from that one of the input streams; and a manager to alternate between input streams in response to an indication whether the data item being processed is a duplicate.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A third aspect of this invention resides in an article for use in a computer implemented replacement selection method for organizing data items from two or more input streams. The article comprises a computer-readable signal-bearing medium with means in the medium for identifying a data item being processed from one of the input streams as being a duplicate of a previously processed data item. The medium also has in it means for retaining an indication that the data item being processed is a duplicate data item, and means for alternating between the input stream containing the duplicate item organizing the data items responsive at least in part to that indication.